

God of Fun 6 – Complete Joy

Hello Redemption Church! My name is Chris Fluitt

God of Fun

Welcome back to the 6th and final week of the GOD OF FUN series.

If you missed any of the previous weeks we encourage you to check them out on our website – redemption-church.com.

Greetings to all our podcast friends, youtube friends, and especially our Facebook live stream friends. Please take a moment to leave us a comment. We love to hear from you.

This has been an adventurous series for us. There were times in the lead up of this series that I was worried at how it would be received. This series was a long time in the making. I actually thought about this series long before I was even a lead pastor.

Jet Ski Theology

I was spending time with family in Gun Barrel City, Tx. We were having lots of fun on the Cedar Creek Reservoir. We were swimming, eating hot dogs, and laughing. And then my cousin got me on a jet ski.

Have you ever been on a Jet ski? I remember vividly riding on that jet ski. They are so much fun. I had fun throwing myself off of that jet ski. I would turn so quickly that it would fling me off into the water. I would come up of the water and yell to my cousins “did you see that!?” and then I would get back on the jet ski and do it again.

I had more than fun on that jet ski. I am serious when I say this... I had a spiritual moment on that jet ski.

I was going fast. The wind was blowing through my hair. I wasn't talking. I wasn't thinking. I wasn't worrying. I was just in the moment. And the moment was beautiful. The sun was setting with one of those majestic horizons that only God paint.

Beautiful greenery and birds were flying. I felt so alive and happy, and then it hit me.

I felt a guilt and a worry. I felt guilty for having fun. I thought having this much fun is probably a sin of some sort. I was worried that God might not be taking pleasure in my pleasure.

Have you ever worried that God was not pleased with your pleasure?

Have you ever tried to repent of something that was not a sin? I did just that, this beautiful day on the lake. I started to repent. God forgive me for taking so much joy in this jet ski ride... And the Lord stopped me.

I felt the Lord speak to me. No it was not an audible voice. I would love to hear His audible voice, but nonetheless, I felt God speak directly to my heart.

He said "This is the day that I have made. I love for my children to rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24 (KJV) This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

"God, is it ok for me to rejoice and be glad?" I said out loud.

He continued "I want your joy to be full."

I realized that this was a scripture reference but I could not at the time remember it. God usually does this to me. He will give me a small piece of the puzzle and then it is up to me to search it out.

When I got back to the shore I went quickly to my Bible... my smart phone... and I googled "joy may be full."

John 15:11 (NIV2011) I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

We are going to hang out on this scripture for a while, because we have a lot to learn, and Jesus can teach us so much in 1 verse of scripture.

Complete Joy

Jesus says there is a Complete Joy. There is a joy that is not lacking anything. There is a joy that is not depending on the results of the job interview. There is a joy that is not dependent upon the economy. There is a joy that is not dependent on the Dallas Cowboys season. There is a joy that is complete regardless of the weather. There is a joy that doesn't require good news. There is a joy that doesn't need a drug. There is a joy that is complete and not lacking anything!

Do you have a complete Joy?

Jesus says "I have told you this... so that your Joy would be complete."

Everything He said & taught... Everything He tried to accomplish... The reason He came to Earth and walked among man.. Jesus purposely tried to bring you a Complete Joy.

I am telling you that we serve the God of Fun who wants us to have a complete joy.

Do you believe Jesus has provided everything you need for a complete joy? If yes, then let's purpose in our heart to have that joy today!

Jesus does something interesting with pronouns in this verse.

John 15:11 John 15:11 (NIV2011) I have told you this so that *my joy*...

Jesus refers to MY JOY, as in HIS JOY.

Jesus' Joy

Jesus has joy. Jesus possesses joy. My is a possessive word.

You cannot have a complete Joy without Jesus' Joy inside of you!

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in You."

Jesus possesses this joy and He places it inside of you. Has Jesus placed His Joy inside of you?

You can try to find happiness for the rest of your life, but you will never find this full complete Joy without the Joy of Jesus inside of you.

Stop it with this, if only I could win the lottery, then I would be completely happy. You can win the lottery and have zero happiness. You need the Joy of Jesus inside of you if you are ever going to have a complete joy.

Jesus give us Your joy today!

But then Jesus flips pronouns. Jesus says that YOUR JOY may be complete.

Your Joy

You cannot have complete Joy without the joy of Jesus, but Jesus flips this on us. Jesus makes YOUR JOY a necessary component for Full Joy.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy...

It is not Jesus' plan to take away your joy and replace it with His own. It is His plan to add His joy to your Joy.

His Joy + Your Joy = Complete Joy

God wants you to do the things you love to do. He wants you to use your giftings and see your dreams realized.

God was not wanting to take away my Jet Ski joy... He was wanting to add His joy, so that my joy would be complete!

You are missing God's plan if you are discounting your joy.

I remember being 20 years old and being focused on God's joy but not exploring my own joy. I had passion, giftings, and dreams inside of me that I wasn't pursuing because God had not sent an angel to tell me to pursue them. God had not told my pastor and my pastor had not told me verbatim what to do. I had not found the scripture verse that said "Go to school for music and learn to lead people in worship. Go learn how to

write songs, sing, and play the piano. Use these joyful giftings of yours.”

That verse is not in the Bible... But this verse is.

John 15:11 (NIV2011) I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

You have a unique joy. You have a unique set of gifts. What is fun for me may be different for what is fun for you. Some of you may be sick to your stomach to be up here preaching, but I am having the time of my life. This is fun. This is my joy.

What is your joy? You need to know what your joy is!

His Joy + Your Joy = Complete Joy

Jesus wants these joys to come together and become complete.

God values your joy. There is room for your joy in His plan.

So get on that jetski and ride. Go out and experience joyful fun. Go create something. Go accomplish. Go start something.

Jesus continues

John 15:12 (NIV2011) My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

You can't have complete joy without Love

You need the love of Jesus. And we need to love each other.

Until you receive the LOVE Jesus has for you, you can never have complete joy. Your joy will always be lacking.

And don't just receive the LOVE of Jesus. Love one another as Jesus has loved you.

John 15:12 (NIV2011) My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

You can't have complete joy without the love of Jesus.

You can't have complete joy without loving others as Christ has loved you.

This is the highest standard of love and it brings the highest level of joy.

There have been many times in my life I didn't receive the love of Jesus. He was trying to give me His love but I did not receive it. I didn't think I deserved it and mistakenly rejected it. I had done too much wrong; Jesus could never love me I thought. I look back on these times as some of the saddest moments in my life.

There are other times in my life where I had the love of Jesus but I refused to love others. I did not offer others the love that Jesus gave to me. Then there are other times where I refused to let other people love me. I refused to let them help me, encourage me, and share with me. These times were filled with anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, and score keeping. I look back at these times in my life with regret. I missed out on so much joy that was available to me.

Are you missing out today? Are you missing out on His complete joy?

You need His Joy & Your Joy. You need to receive His love and share that love with others and be loved by others.

The Apostle John wrote the scripture we have focused on. He is quoting Jesus.

John 15:11 (NIV2011) I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

John echoes what Jesus says in 1 John.

1 John 1:3 (NIV2011) We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:4 (NIV2011) We write this to make our joy complete.

John had the Joy of the Lord in him. Even though he went through many hardships, he had the Joy of Jesus in Him.

John also was living out his passion. It was his joy to proclaim everything that Jesus had done. It was his joy to write down the message of Jesus Christ. He would be overjoyed to know we are looking at his writing today. AND THIS is what makes his joy complete.

He uses the exact same Greek phrase. I want you to imagine with me, these many years later, John sitting down and writing these words His savior spoke to him. It is such an amazing testimony that John knew the teaching of Christ was true. John heard Jesus teach on a complete joy, but now John was experiencing that complete joy.

The teaching of Jesus is true. You really can have a complete joy.

1 John 1:3 (NIV2011) We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

We need..

- Fellowship with us
- Fellowship with God as Father
- Fellowship with God as our brother through the incarnation – Jesus Christ

Some of you are not happy today.

New flash! It is not your jobs fault. It is not your spouse's fault or parent's fault. It is not your church's fault.

You need to own this. Will you begin to change this? God wants your joy to be full.

I am about to open this service for a time of prayer... but before I do. I need to be a pastor.

MUSICIAN

I need to say that some of you are not in a relationship with Jesus. You are not actively receiving His love. You lack fellowship with the Father. You don't pray. Your worship has no pulse. The Word of God is not a priority. No wonder you lack full joy.

Some in this room have little to no relationship with others in the body of Christ. If the only time you fellowship with other believers is when we say "turn around and greet someone..." no wonder you are lacking a full joy. You need to share your fellowship with others. We want.. we need to see you at one of our groups... connect group, study group, play group... anything. You need this relationship.

Some of you in this room have closed yourself off and have not allowed anyone to be a help to you. You need to allow yourself to receive love from others. I know some people who are good at giving love but terrible at receiving it. You need to open up and receive. If this is you, then it is no wonder you lack full joy.

There is fellowship with God in this altar today.

There is fellowship with each other in this altar today.

There is a complete joy waiting for you today in this altar.

Before you come today we are going to do something different. We encourage everyone to come and if you have special needs to come into the first 2 feet and that our staff will come pray for you. We are going to do this again today, but instead of it just being our staff, we want anyone that needs to show the

love of Jesus to come up here and pray for you, This is such an amazing opportunity for the body of Christ to minister one to another.

Come.

We care about YOUR JOY. Your Church wants to see your gifts and passions on display.